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70. An optical scanner according to claim 69, wherein said imaging lens has a surface having a point of inflection in the main scanning direction.

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71. An optical scanner according to claim 61, wherein said light source has a plurality of light-emitting portions.

72. An optical scanner according to claim 71, wherein that element of the imaging lens which has such a surface that the curvature in the sub-scanning direction varies continuously along the main scanning direction over the effective area of said imaging lens is made of plastic.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 61 through 72 are pending, with Claim 61 being independent. Claim 61 has been amended.

Claims 61 through 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being non-enabling on the grounds that although the application discloses numerical data for two surfaces, the recitation "at least two surfaces" is not enabled. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submits that (1) there is no requirement that a working example with more than two surfaces be provided (MPEP 2164.02), and (2) there has been no showing as to any quantity of experimentation necessitated (MPEP 2164.06), let alone why such

experimentation would be undue (MPEP 2164.04). But to expedite prosecution and the proposed interference, without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicant has obviated the rejection by amending the claim in a manner believed to avoid the grounds of rejection (i.e., changing "at least two" to --two--). Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 37,838

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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MARKED-UP CLAIM SHEET

61. (Amended) In an optical scanner having a source of a light beam, a deflector for deflecting said light beam and an imaging lens that focuses the deflected light beam to form a beam spot on a surface to be scanned, the improvement wherein the curvatures in a sub-scanning direction of [at least] two of the surfaces of said imaging lens vary continuously along a main scanning direction over the effective area of said imaging lens and independently of the curvatures in the main scanning direction, and wherein the curvatures in the main and sub-scanning directions are non-symmetrical with respect to the optical axis.